

I CLAIM:

1. A device for starting an internal combustion engine comprising a first clutch member attachable to the engine, and a second clutch member attachable to a portable drive means, wherein the first and second clutch members are engageable so that the drive means transmit force through the clutch members so as to turn and start the engine, and wherein, once the engine starts, the first and second clutch members automatically disengage from each other and wherein at least one of the first and second clutch members retracts.
2. A device according to claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second clutch members comprise resilient biasing means against retraction.
3. A device according to claim 2 wherein at least one of the first and second clutch members is resiliently biased by a spring.
4. A device according to claim 1 wherein the second clutch means is suitable for attachment to a portable drill.
5. A device according to claim 1 wherein the first clutch member is suitable for attachment to a lawnmower engine.
6. A device according to claim 1 wherein the first clutch member is retractable.
7. A device according to claim 1 wherein the second clutch member is retractable.
8. A device according to claim 1 wherein the retractable clutch member remains retracted when the clutch members disengage.
9. A device according to claim 1 wherein one of the clutch members is slidably mounted on a shaft.
10. A device according to claim 9 wherein the clutch member is prevented from rotating about the shaft.
11. A device according to claim 1 wherein the first and second clutch members comprise a dog clutch.

12. A lawnmower comprising a first clutch member attached to an internal combustion engine wherein the first clutch member may engage with a second clutch member attached to a portable drive means so that the drive means transmit force through the clutch members so as to turn and start the engine, and wherein, once the engine starts, the first and second clutch members automatically disengage from each other and wherein at least one of the first and second clutch members retracts.